

AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY, VIRGINIA HELD ON THE 17TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2009 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE BOARD CHAMBERS, MONTGOMERY COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER, 755 ROANOKE STREET, CHRISTIANSBURG, VIRGINIA:

PRESENT:	Annette S. Perkins	-Chair
	James D. Politis	-Vice Chair
	Mary W. Biggs	-Supervisors
	William H. Brown	
	Gary D. Creed	
	Doug Marrs	
	John A. Muffo	
	F. Craig Meadows	-County Administrator
	L. Carol Edmonds	-Assistant County Administrator
	Martin M. McMahon	-County Attorney
	Ruth L. Richey	-Public Information Officer

CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order. A joint meeting was held between the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors, Town of Blacksburg, Town of Christiansburg, and Virginia Tech to discuss the New River Valley 911 Emergency Communications Center Project.

INTO WORK SESSION

On a motion by Doug Marrs, seconded by William H. Brown and carried unanimously,

BE IT RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors hereby enters into Work Session for the purpose of discussing the following:

1. Regional 911 Communications Center

The vote on the foregoing motion was as follows:

<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>
Gary D. Creed	None
Doug Marrs	
James D. Politis	
William H. Brown	
John A. Muffo	
Mary W. Biggs	
Annette S. Perkins	

New River Valley 911 Emergency Communications Center Project

- ▶ In March 2009, following general discussions starting in September 2008, VT, the Towns of Blacksburg and Christiansburg and the County collectively entered into a Memorandum of Understanding *“for the purpose of establishing a Working Group to study whether it is technically feasible to establish a regional 911 emergency center and radio system serving the signatory entities.”*
- ▶ Chief Crannis with the Town of Blacksburg secured funding through VITA (Virginia Information Technology Agency) to conduct a feasibility study on consolidating emergency communications. Final report was issued July 17.
- ▶ Chief Crannis has also requested \$1.5 million from Congressman Boucher’s Office for this project.
- ▶ Working Group is seeking other potential grant opportunities such as a Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) grant. Applications will be accepted in January 2010.
- ▶ Montgomery County is currently conducting a Preliminary Architectural Review (PAR) to convert the existing courthouse to a public safety building. The Sheriff has asked the architects to include in their review the use of 10,000 sq. ft. for an Emergency Operations Center and a Regional 911 Communications Center –should this site be selected.
- ▶ The feasibility study states that over a 20 year period, a consolidated center is estimated to save \$26 million as opposed to operating separate centers and replacing expensive equipment at multiple sites.
- ▶ There are current equipment needs among all centers (911 Customer Premise Equipment, Computer Aided Dispatch/Records Management software, radio console systems, consolidated mapping system, etc.) which could be replaced once-- instead of multiple times--saving costs and increasing service.
- ▶ With consolidation, Emergency Medical Dispatch could be implemented significantly increasing the quality of care to citizens, opportunities would increase to cross train personnel and ensure adequate numbers of staff are scheduled in the center, and duplication among equipment and systems could be reduced.
- ▶ The feasibility study recommends a consolidated center be an independent governmental agency and governed by a Board of Directors representing the local governments and the university. An Emergency Communications Center Director would report to the Board of Directors and manage operations of the Center. The study identifies this model as the most common for a shared communications center. The study also recommends establishing a User Advisory Committee.
- ▶ The MOU provides for the hire of a consultant to develop a plan for implementation of a regional 911 communications center.

- ▶ An application has been submitted for funding to conduct a radio frequency (RF) assessment study to determine the pro's and con's of each RF in use and recommend one that would best meet the needs of all center partners.
- ▶ Next steps include:
 - Selecting a consultant to develop detailed plans, policies and procedures, costs estimates and staffing needs
 - Create a Regional 911 Authority (Each locality to adopt a resolution supporting legislation to allow an authority to be created)
 - Confirm center location
 - Hire Emergency Communications Center Director
 - Transition to a Consolidated Emergency Communications Center

OUT OF WORK SESSION

On a motion by Doug Marrs, seconded by William H. Brown and carried unanimously,

BE IT RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors ends the Work Session to return to Regular Session.

The vote on the foregoing motion was as follows:

<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>
Gary D. Creed	None
Doug Marrs	
James D. Politis	
William H. Brown	
John A. Muffo	
Mary W. Biggs	
Annette S. Perkins	

ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned to Monday, August 24, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

APPROVED: _____	ATTEST: _____
Annette S. Perkins	F. Craig Meadows
Chair, Board of Supervisors	County Administrator